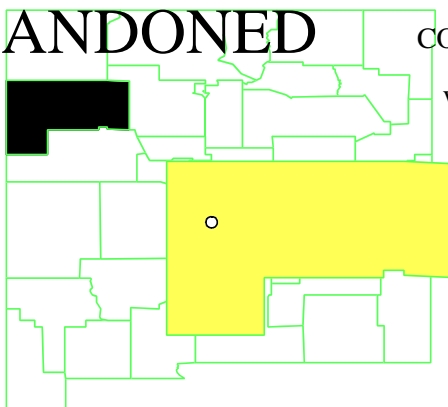


# PREWITT ABANDONED REFINERY NEW MEXICO

EPA ID# NMD980622773

Site ID: 0600877



## REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 03

McKinley County

West of Prewitt on U.S. Hwy. 66

Other Names:

Petroleum Products Refinery

Prewitt Tar Pits

Last Update : September 2004

## Site Description

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- Location:
- Two tracts west of Prewitt on U.S. Highway 66 in McKinley County.
  - Some of the site is located on Navajo tribal lands.
- Population:
- Approximately 75 people live within a 1 mile radius of the site.
- Setting:
- An estimated 1,600 people draw from the public and private wells within three miles of the site.
  - Tract A, South of Highway 66, is 68.2 acres and contains the ruins of the refinery, including waste pits, oil/water separator, tank bases, and other rubble.
  - Tract B, North of Highway 66, is 6.8 acres and includes two major spill areas and the remains of a pump lift station.
- Hydrology:
- A shallow sandstone aquifer, which is the principal water supply has been contaminated to 200 ft. depth. A 700 ft. deep zone also shows evidence of contamination.

## Present Status and Issues

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- The PRPs are complying with the Unilateral Administrative Order for the Remedial Design and the Remedial Action. Long term remedial actions are currently ongoing to address ground water contamination at the site.
- The EPA is evaluating a Technical Impracticability (TI) waiver for the ground water present in the F and G Sandstone Units.

## Wastes and Volumes

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Principal pollutants:

- Ground water: lead, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, non-aqueous phase liquids
- Soils: asbestos, lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons ("PAHs")
- Separator: petroleum sludges

Volume:

- Approximately 50,000 gallons of contaminated ground water
- Approximately 43,500 gallons of non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPL)

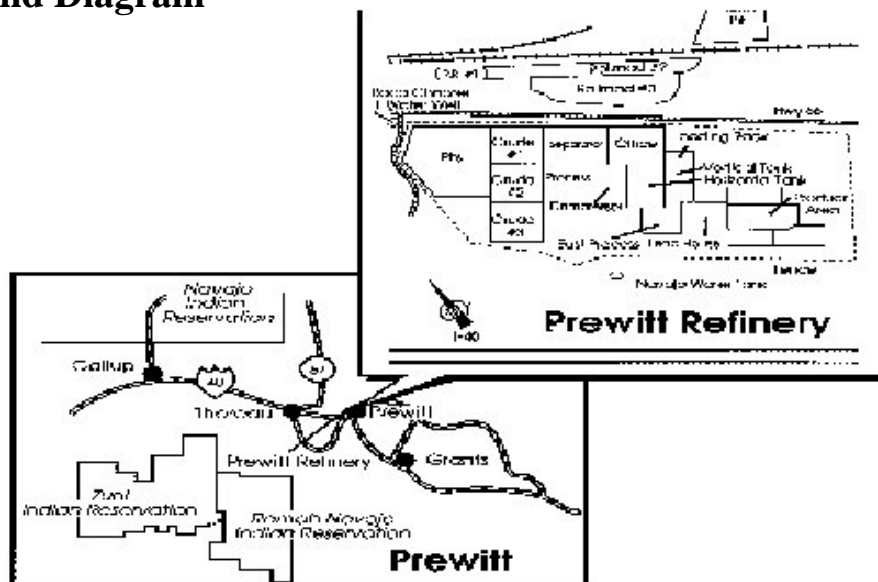
- Approximately 15 cubic yards of asbestos containing materials
- Approximately 1175 cubic yards of pit material
- Approximately 1500 cubic yards of PAH contaminated soils
- Approximately 665 cubic yards of lead contaminated soils
- Approximately 80 cubic yards of sludges in the separator

## Site Assessment and Ranking

### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 44.24  
 Proposed Date: 6/24/88  
 Final Date: 8/17/90  
 NPL Update: No. 7

## Site Map and Diagram



## The Remediation Process

### Site History:

- July 1989, under an agreement with EPA, the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) began activities to reduce immediate threats.
- PRP removal activities included: construction of a fence, treating well water to remove contaminants, provide alternate well water supply, and installation of a carbon filtration system.
- April 1990, PRP removal activities completed.
- Remedial Investigation (RI) Completed August 1991.
- Feasibility Study (FS) completed February 1992
- Record of Decision (ROD) signed on September 30, 1992.
- Special Notice for financing and performance of Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) was

issued to PRPs on December 30, 1992.

- Unilateral Administrative Order was issued to ARCO and El Paso Natural Gas on May 14, 1993. Both parties have informed EPA that they intend to comply with the Unilateral Administrative Order.
- The surface remediation has been completed. The sampling of the landfarm which was constructed in May 1996, indicates that the concentrations of the contaminants of concern in the soils and sludges are below the remedial action goals. The landfarm was dismantled in November 1996.
- EPA has completed the partial deletion of the surface portion of the site from the National Priorities List. The surface soils have been remediated to residential standards. A Notice of Intent to Delete the surface portion of the Site appeared in the October 6, 1997, Federal Register. The comment period for the Notice closed on November 5, 1997. Two favorable comments were received. The final Notice for the partial deletion appeared in the Federal Register on January 29, 1998.
- EPA received the final Phase I Subsurface Completion Report and Phase II Subsurface Remediation Plan for the North NAPL Area on May 6, 1998. The plan was approved in September 1998.
- EPA conducted a five year review of the Site in September 2000 and found the remedy to be protective of human health and the environment.
- EPA received the final Phase I Subsurface Completion Report for the South and Miscellaneous NAPL Area on March 6, 2002.

#### Health Considerations:

- Contamination of residential wells adjacent to the site; one well has been closed and a second has become contaminated.
- The remedy was designed to address direct contact with or ingestion of contaminated soils and ground water.

## Record of Decision

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Signed: September 30, 1992

#### Ground Water:

- Ground Water Pump and Treat
- Soil Vapor Extraction of the Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids

#### Soil Treatment:

- Soil vapor extraction of the non-aqueous phase liquids
- Landfarming of the West Pits area and hydrocarbon contaminated soils
- Excavation and off site disposal of asbestos containing materials, lead contaminated soils and separator contents

## Community Involvement

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- Constituency Interest: Moderate/major concern is well contamination, or the potential for contamination.
- Outreach Activities: Update to NPL, August 17, 1990; fact sheet 9/90.
- Community Relations Plan: 12/1/89
- RI Activities: Local officials briefed 9/88; fact sheet 9/90; open house 9/90, open house 6/91, fact sheet 7/91, open house 4/92; public meeting 7/92.

- Proposed Plan: 7-18-92
- ROD fact sheet: 12-21-92
- Revised Community Relations Plan: In development
- RD/RA Activities: Open house 5/94; fact sheet 5/94; RD complete fact sheet 2/95; open house 3/95; ground breaking and Tribal blessing ceremony 4/22/95; RA status open house 5/96, proposed partial deletion fact sheet, open house, 7/97; public notice, 10/97;
- Citizens on site mailing list: 75
- Site Repository: Prewitt Fire House, Highway 66, Prewitt, NM 8704
- An Open House to discuss the proposed surface portion deletion of the site was held on July 24, 1997.
- The notice in the Federal Register asking for comments on the proposed partial deletion was published on October 6, 1997. Two comments were received during the public comment period.
- EPA held open houses on April 5, 2001, at the Navajo Baca Chapter House and the Prewitt Fire Station to discuss the five year review and the current state of the remediation process.

## Technical Assistance Grant

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- Availability Notice: 2/89, 5/94
- Letters of Intent Received: None; request for application packet 5/94
- Grant Award: N/A

## Contacts

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- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Sai Appaji, 214/665-3126, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- **State Contact:** Dana Bahar, 505/827-2908
- **Navajo Superfund Contact:** Diane Malone, 520/871-7327
- **Community Involvement (EPA):** Don Williams, 214/665-2197, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- **Attorney (EPA):** James E. Costello, 214/665-8045, Mail Sta. 6RC-S
- **Ombudsman (EPA):** Arnold Ondarza, 1-800-533-3508
- **Potential Responsible Parties:** El Paso Natural Gas Company and ARCO

## Benefits

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- Remediation of the Prewitt Superfund Site will reduce environmental risks for 75 people that live within a 1 mile radius of the site, and improving environmental conditions on the Navajo Tribal Lands.
- The surface portion of the site has been remediated to allow for future residential use and has been deleted from the NPL.